

Whereas, Georgia Piedmont Technical College has grown from one campus to nine campuses in DeKalb, Newton, Rockdale and Morgan counties; and

Whereas, Georgia Piedmont Technical College continues to be a resource for citizens in DeKalb County and throughout the state of Georgia by providing excellent community service, educational opportunities and stellar leadership; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Georgia Piedmont Technical College on its 50th anniversary as an anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim April 14, 2012, as Georgia Piedmont Technical College Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of April, 2012.

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR
THE DEBBIE SMITH DNA BACK-
LOG PROGRAM

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 11, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for working together to ensure that the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program is adequately funded in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

Given these difficult economic times, difficult choices must be made as to where scarce funds are to be allocated. Given the importance of the DNA Backlog Grant program to law enforcement agencies in my congressional district, I would have liked for the program to have received even more funding. But I am very pleased that the bill provides funding at the amount requested by the Administration, the sponsor of the authorizing legislation and my good friend, Congresswoman MALONEY from New York, and is more than eighty percent of the amount of funding I requested the Committee to provide.

The DNA Backlog Grant program provides funding to help reduce and eliminate the backlog of DNA evidence in state and local labs across the Nation. The "Justice For All Act" (P.L. 108-405) expanded the use of DNA technology to convict the guilty and free the innocent. In 2008, Congress again showed its overwhelming bipartisan support for this initiative by passing "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act" which extends this program through FY 2014.

There is an ever-present need to continue robust funding for programs such as the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program in order to make sure victims do not fall through the cracks of the system.

Women who have been raped have a right to expect police to thoroughly investigate the case and prosecute the offenders; however, many rape kits across the country are never even tested, and the perpetrators never face justice. Nowhere is this problem greater than in Los Angeles County, where there is a backlog of more than 12,000 rape kits sitting untested in storage facilities. Of those kits, 499 are attached to cases past the 10-year statute

of limitations for rape in California, meaning that even if those kits are tested, the offenders cannot be tried for their crimes.

The current fiscal crisis has already hindered efforts to eliminate the backlog, as Los Angeles city officials have been denied the funds necessary for hiring crime laboratory analysts. Continued cuts, however small, will continue a trend of neglecting this pursuit of justice, and thousands of women and their families will be denied their basic security and peace of mind.

DNA evidence is critical in sexual assault cases, and I would like to highlight one recent success story from my district in Long Beach. The alleged crime occurred in August of 2003, when a 17-year-old student was sexually assaulted by a stranger on her high school campus. The DNA collected at the scene went untested for 7 years due to the laboratory's backlog, but in 2011 Redondo Beach police arrested the attacker. The DNA match showed the chance of the DNA belonging to someone else was one in a trillion, providing nearly irrefutable proof of his guilt. I ask for unanimous consent to include in the RECORD copies of newspaper stories that discuss in greater detail the importance of robust funding for the DNA initiative to reduce the backlog in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Speaker, the DNA Initiative is an invaluable tool for law enforcement today, and it will continue to be a legislative priority of mine. That is why I am pleased that funding for this vitally important program was not reduced as so many other worthwhile programs have been. I commend my colleagues on the Committee for funding the program at the level requested by the President and those of us in this body that strongly support the program.

ZOELLICK LEAVES A LASTING
LEGACY AT THE WORLD BANK

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 11, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today's global challenges demand global solutions. From poverty and hunger, to climate change and the financial crisis, the complexities of the 21st century require not only American leadership, but also effective global institutions. While the world continues to change at a rapid pace, the World Bank—with its wealth of experts and resources for fighting poverty—is a critical multilateral instrument for addressing these global challenges.

During his 5-year term, outgoing World Bank President Robert Zoellick has helped lead a turnaround at the World Bank and reestablished for the United States a key partner in advancing vital U.S. interests abroad. President Zoellick has placed new focus on pragmatic, common-sense solutions. He recognized that in order to meet the challenges of a changing world, the World Bank had to change along with it. In the last 5 years, the Bank has transitioned from a once rigid top-down approach to development, into a flexible, collaborative, and more democratic institution.

President Zoellick recognized a critical reality: that alleviating poverty is vital to economic recovery. Investments in global health, education, food security, and empowering

women and girls not only lift millions of people out of poverty, but create important sources for economic growth. These investments make the world a safer place to do business. Even as it responded to the global financial crisis, the World Bank under President Zoellick raised \$90 billion for the International Development Association, the Bank's fund for the world's poorest. The World Bank worked with developing countries to strengthen their social safety nets and build resilience to crisis, and invested in critical infrastructure to remove investment barriers.

At the World Bank, President Zoellick leaves behind a real, tangible legacy. His push to institute a "Freedom of Information Act" unleashes public innovation by allowing free, open access to the World Bank's trove of economic data. This unprecedented step has ushered in a new era of accountability and transparency. President Zoellick created the Climate Investment Funds, which have already leveraged nearly \$50 billion for practical investments in energy efficiency, technology development, and combating deforestation. These remarkable contributions will continue long after President Zoellick leaves the World Bank next month.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Caucus for Congressional-World Bank Dialogue, I look forward to working with the World Bank to continue the progress achieved during President Zoellick's tenure.

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the World Bank's next president, should give Congress—a major investor in the World Bank—confidence that an American with a proven track record of success will be advancing this shared vision for global development. Dr. Kim's significant contributions to global health, his commitment to partnerships on the ground in developing countries, and his proven management skills will make him an effective leader of this vital multilateral institution.

Together, we can build on the innovation, accountability, and effectiveness that President Zoellick has brought to the World Bank during his successful 5-year term.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 11, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, we are saddened by the death of Mr. Robert Lee Smith because our lives have been touched by the life of this one man; and Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith's work is present in our community and his church, Hillcrest Church of Christ; being a deacon, Bible School instructor, bus driver and singer; and

Whereas, this highly effective motivator utilized his skills to aid in the growth and development of his church; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time and talent as he served his family, friends and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith was a husband, a son, a father, a friend and a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this